

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 03013 081410Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-02 HA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
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O R 081331Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7181
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ/SCJ2

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, UY
SUBJECT: POISONING OF BLANCO LEADER'S WIFE: UPDATE

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 2969 (DTG R 061341Z SEP 78) (B) MONTEVIDEO
2993 (NOTAL) (DTG 071344Z SEP 78)

1. AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 6 INTERIOR MINISTER GENERAL
HUGO LINARES BRUM IN PRESS CONFERENCE ON HEBER POISONING
CASE STRESSED IN UNUSUALLY FORCEFUL AND FORTHRIGHT TERMS THAT
GOU SHARES PUBLIC CONCERN AND WAS DETERMINED TO SPARE NO EFFORT
IN SOLVING CRIME. EARLY CONFIRMING SIGNS ARE POLICE ASSIGNMENT
TO CASE OF NARCOTICS DIVISION CHIEF CAPT. CAMPOS HERMIDA,
WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS COUNTRY'S MOST EFFECTIVE CRIMINAL INVESTI-
GATOR, AND UNUSUAL PAINS TAKEN BY POLICE TO KEEP PRESS AND COUNTRY
AS A WHOLE INFORMED OF LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AND SOLICIT PUBLIC
ASSISTANCE. LINARES' STATEMENT ALSO NOTED THAT GOU ASSUMES
CRIME HAD A POLITICAL MOTIVE, WAS DESIGNED TO DISRUPT THE PUBLIC
ORDER AND THAT "LOGICALLY IT WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM TERRORIST
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GROUPS". THIS PRESUMABLY OFF-THE-WALL REACTION WAS MODIFIED
SLIGHTLY BUT SIGNIFICANTLY BY ARMY CINC ALVAREZ IN A STATEMENT
CARRIED BY THE PRESS THE FOLLOWING MORNING. ALVAREZ NOTED THAT
"I CALL IT TERRORISM BECAUSE I SHARE THE THEORY (ADVANCED BY
GEN. LINARES) THAT THE CAUSES AND AIMS OF THIS CRIME ARE EMINENTLY
POLITICAL, IF NOT IDEOLOGICAL".

2. EMBASSY HAS URGED GOU AT ALL LEVELS OF CONTACT TO CONDUCT SERIOUS AND THOROUGH INVESTIGATION. WE SEE THE STATEMENTS OF LINARES AND ALVAREZ PLUS THE OBVIOUS SIGNS OF ALL-OUT EFFORT OBSERVED IN CONTACT WITH POLICE SOURCES, AS EVIDENCE THAT IT IS DOING PRECISELY THAT, AND THAT ALVAREZ WAS NOT EXAGGERATING WHEN HE DECLARED THAT "THERE IS A REAL CONCERN OVER THE AFFAIR AND DIRECTIVES HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO INVESTIGATE REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES". AT THE SAME TIME, IN ALMOST CONSTANT CONTACT WITH BLANCO TRIUMVIRATE AND WIDE RANGE OF PARTY LEADERSHIP, WE HAVE BEEN URGING PATIENCE IN LIGHT OF OBVIOUSLY SERIOUS AND DETERMINED GOU REACTION TO THE CRIME. (INTERESTING CONFIRMATION OF THIS COMES FROM PARTY CHIEF CARLOS JULIO PEREYRA, ONE OF THE INTENDED VICTIMS, WHO REPORTS A DELUGE OF CALLS OFFERING SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FROM TOP LEVELS OF THE GOU, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY.)

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT REINFORCE THIS BY TAKING SIMILAR LINE WITH URUGUAYAN EMBASSY AND INTERESTED HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS.

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Message Attributes

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